

THE FORUM

"Be ye doers and not sayers only."

Vol. 5, NO. 42 SPRNGFIELD, ILL., SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1909. 15C A MONTH

Decatur on Boom.

MERCHANTS OF "DRY" CITY DECLARE THEIR BUSINESS GREATEST IN HISTORY—GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS INDUSTRIALLY

SINCE LOCAL OPTION WON—ONE THIRD LESS ARRESTS SINCE MAY 1908 THAN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1907.

Decatur is on a boom. She is our strongest, most-to-be-feared rival. She is the cleanest town in the state and probably the prettiest. Her citizens are wide awake and she is quite charitable. Business in Decatur is steady—she has more factories for her size and location, than any other central Illinois city. Her population is steadily increasing and her citizens are good "desirable citizens—she has no "floaters." Decatur is an ideal, "northern city," beautiful boulevards and pleasure parks abound—has many wealthy citizens.

Decatur has a population of 30,000 people, 1500 of whom are colored. She has many fine churches and school buildings—her schools rank among the state's best. Her moral atmosphere is very congenial, and her politics are clean, as we term it politically. As to local option, merchants say their business is and has been, since the town went dry, better than ever; insurance men and renters say their collections are better and the people handle more money and live better. The general building and improving of property are said to be thirty per cent. better. Two thirds less arrests have been made for drunkenness and other misdemeanors. So there you are.

The colored people are the best class of citizens; industrious, frugal and progressive.

There were many Christmas festivities at the churches. Rev. Morrow of St. Peter's church, is much admired and is considered a fine man; a profound speaker. He has just closed a series of sixteen sermons, which are said to have been ably and explicitly enunciated.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs, 866 W. Decatur street, entertained at dinner last Monday. Rev. and Mrs. Morrow. Quite a sumptuous repast was served and the beautiful home decorated in holiday colors.

Rev. Crockett is spending the holidays with his parents in Arkansas.

You should read The Forum, you Decaturites. Our collector will visit Decatur next week.

The election of officers for the next six months of Capital City Lodge K. of P., resulted as following: C. C. Richard Bean, V. C. C., Clarence Ciggins, Prelate, E. L. Rogers, M. F., H. H. Pettitt, M. E., G. W. Jones, Sr., K. of R. S., C. C. Rose, (re-elected) M. A., F. Gatewood, A. L. Walker, Grand Lodge Degree, C. Liggins, Trustee, A. Dotson. Next meeting second Monday in January, 1909.

Jack Johnson Wins.

IS NOW THE HEAVY WEIGHT CHAMPION OF THE WORLD.

Jack Johnson, colored, native of Texas, met Tommy Burns, white, native of Canada, last Friday, (Australian Saturday) at Rush Cutters' Bay, N. S. W., Australia, and won in fourteen rounds, the heavy-weight championship of the world, and again, the sable son of "Ham" is on top. You can't keep a good man down. Johnson, it seems, had the advantage of his opponent from the first tap of the gong, as he floored Burns with an upper-cut in the first round. Johnson is also a frugal, industrious young man, and saves a part of his earnings, cares for his mother and sisters and owns considerable property in Texas. This is especially commendable and for these latter deeds, especially, we are glad he holds the blue ribbon.

Jeffries says he will not fight Johnson for \$100,000. It was Jeffries who said more than a year ago, in reference to the Johnson Burns fight: "Why Jack Johnson will knock his block off."

Woman's Club Notes.

The Philanthropic Section was largely attended at the Lincoln Colored Home. The donations by sacks and otherwise, amounted to \$12.65. We hope all persons holding sacks will please turn them into the Home, if possible, not later than Jan. 7.

Novelty bazaars will be going on under the auspices of the club, Mrs. Roie Hunter is the general chairman of committees. It will last two nights at the Home, January 7 and 8, 1909. Come out and help in these socials for the Home.

Open doors at the Home from 2 p. m. to 5 p. m. on New Year's day. Please bring an offering.

Regular business meeting Monday, January 4, at the residence of Mrs. J. C. McClain, 400 N. 4th street.—H. D. Cottman, reporter.

Zion Baptist Notes.

The Zion Baptist Sunday school Christmas tree, was a success and was well attended. The children rendered a program that was commendable. There were a large number of presents on the tree, indeed some very valuable and most especially the one given to Mrs. Nettie Gaddie, presented by her husband. It was a beautiful gold watch. Rev. A. W. Williams and wife were kindly remembered by Santa Claus. He put quite a number of valuable presents on the tree for them. A 50 lb. sack of flour, compliment of Mrs. John Douglass. Mrs. Harriet Wells presented the pastor with a nice lot of groceries. Mrs. Maggie Davis presented the pastor with a cost-

ly shirt and gave his wife a very highly appreciated present. And others gave them gifts which were highly appreciated. Mr. Henry Douglas, of St. Louis, sent Rev. Williams and wife each a nice present. The editor of The Forum remembered Rev. Williams with some of "in God we trust."

Bloomington News.

Mrs. J. Robinson and sons, Pearl and Willie, spent Christmas in Jacksonville.

Mrs. Julia Johnson spent Christmas in Gibson City, with her daughter, Mrs. D. Huddleson.

Mrs. J. Dickerson and Rena Grigsby, spent Christmas in Peoria.

Mrs. Jennie Reaves entertained a party of girls with a dinner at the home of her mother, Mrs. J. Rajordon, S. East street, Christmas day.

Mrs. Charles Hunter gave a granite shower in honor of Miss Minnie Dalton, Monday afternoon, who is soon to wed Mr. Clarence Stoner.

Tuesday afternoon, December 15, at the home of her sister, Mrs. Mabel Alexander, in Yakima, Washington, occurred the death of Mrs. Stella Hellem, the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Waggoner, formerly of Springfield. Mrs. Hellem left a husband, two children, father and mother, three brothers and four sisters, one who is Mrs. J. Samuels of this city.

Master Roy Tate entertained a few friends in honor of Thomas Waggoner of Jacksonville Monday evening at his home. Mr. Waggoner is soon to leave for his home in Jacksonville.

Janus, the Watch God

1908, too, has passed and can only be numbered with the other yesteryears; how sad, "no more." January, from the god Janus, who is supposed to have had two faces, one watching the old year out, the other the new year in, is here, so write it 1909, until this time another year. But how many of us are worthy of having been spared here all these years? What have we done, or what future have we, that He has been so gracious? Examine yourself and see if you have not been spared in vain. Let the dead bury its dead, however and turn your attention to the future. Let us not lament over our past evils, but set our sails for storms we shall confront. This is 1909, what are going to do for its betterment?

Ding, dong, ding, dong, rang those charming bells, welcoming in this new year, who is yet but a babe—glorious old year, farewell thou art but as a tale that was told—but for thine happy days bestowed upon us, we thank thee.

"Farewell, a long farewell, to all thy greatness."

This is 1908. Good morning.

Robert Henington entertained a number of girls and boys at the residence of his parents Tuesday evening.

ONE OF THE SOCIAL EVENTS OF THE HOLIDAYS.

One of the social events of the Yule Tide was a reception given by Mr. and Mrs. Benj. H. Lucas, at their residence, 1103 E. Jefferson St., on the occasion of their fifth wedding anniversary. Their home was appropriately decorated and presented an air of prosperity, happiness and contentment. Many pretty and useful presents were presented to them by a host of friends. Mrs. Lucas was presented with a diamond ring by her husband.

The ladies were all attired in the latest evening gowns, while the most of the men wore the conventional black. Among the many presents were: Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. H. Tucker, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Singleton, Mr. and Mrs. Will Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Rose, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Warlick, Capt. R. A. Byrd and Mrs. Byrd, Dr. S. A. Ware and Mrs. Ware, Rev. Jones and Mrs. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. H. Long, Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Gorum, Mrs. Busch Saine, of Chicago, Mrs. Etta Harvey, Mr. D. S. Bailey, Mr. O. V. Royall, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Dent, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Johnson, Mr. John Coe, Miss Birdie Sharp, Mrs. King, Maj. Otis B. Duncan, Miss Pride, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Mosby, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Holaway, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Rhinehart, Mrs. C. Morris, Miss Gertrude Williams, Miss Hortense Mosby and Miss Lula Tucker.

Bloomington News.

Mr. William Williams of Chicago, was the guest of Miss Cora Osborn during Xmas week.

Mrs. Ed Thomas is seriously ill at her home on Eugene St.

Mrs. Frank Harbor of West Monroe street, left for Galesburg to visit her husband.

Saturday, at the marriage parlors of Judge Hendricks, occurred the marriage of James Hawkins to Miss Daisy Flynn. The groom is well known in this city, having lately been in the employe of Rush's Pantatorium. Mrs. Hawkins is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Flynn of Columbia, Mo. The couple will reside in Minook.

Monday at the marriage parlors of Judge Hendricks, occurred the marriage of Mr. Benjamin Smith of Madison, Indiana, and Miss Matilda Walker of Rochester. The bride is well known in Springfield having sang in the choir of the Union Baptist church for some time.

Miss Edna Gray returned to her home in Missouri, Tuesday.

Mrs. Rufus Lashley is visiting in Quincy. Miss Galena Caldwell entertained a party of her friends with a doll party, Wednesday afternoon. There were dolls present from six years to one year old.

Hoagland's Oil of Gladness has proven to be the greatest furniture preserver in the world, owned and controlled exclusively by Negroes. Special terms for 30 days. Send \$1 and get \$3 worth of oil to George Hoagland, 903 W. Jefferson Street, Bloomington, Ill.